

TOKYO GAZETTE

A MONTHLY REPORT OF CURRENT POLICIES,
OFFICIAL STATEMENTS AND STATISTICS

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The TOKYO GAZETTE is published monthly by the Foreign Affairs Association of Japan under the supervision of the Bureau of Information, Prime Minister's Department. Its purpose is primarily to supply information concerning the nature of problems being confronted today by the Japanese nation as a whole, and of the governmental steps being taken to solve these problems.

The material in the TOKYO GAZETTE is selected mainly from the *Weekly Report*, edited by the Bureau of Information. The accuracy and comprehensiveness of data presented in the *Report* are fully established. For the benefit of students of Japanese affairs, the TOKYO GAZETTE is endeavouring to maintain these qualities in the hope that its publication will eliminate unfortunate misunderstandings and thus contribute to world peace and international goodwill.

THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BATTLE FOR HANKOW

BUREAU OF INFORMATION, WAR DEPARTMENT

THE battle for Hankow will be fought in the basin of the central course of the Yangtze River in Hupeh Province.¹ This area is called the Chingchow plain and is famous in Chinese history as the proving ground of many a national hero. Wuchang, Chingchow and Siangyang form a triangle of key towns in the eastern Chingchow plain.

The Tapiéh mountain range north of the Yangtze and the Wanyang range south of the river form boundaries of the plain. The key towns are connected with a series of passes. The Japanese forces are now negotiating the mountain ranges in their combined drive on Hankow. Topographically, Hankow may be compared to Kyoto or Osaka in Japan, which, if secured in feudal times, would have enabled the successful war-lord to become a shogun.

So much for the Chinese geographical advantage. On Japan's side, a great geographical advantage exists in the Yangtze River, which may be used as a valuable line of communication in the prosecution of military operations on Hankow. General Chiang Kai-shek plans to make the Japanese repeat Napoleon's failure in advancing to Moscow, but he has failed to attach due significance to a great blessing in the possession of the Japanese, namely the advantages accruing from the Yangtze River.

The mountains both north and south of the Yangtze are rocky, adding to the difficulty of moving troops, especially baggage corps. The Japanese pincer movement against Hankow is characterized by mountain warfare, in which one mountain after another is captured before the final objective is attained.

Along both banks of the river are many lakes and marshes, particularly near Hankow and Wuchang. These prove difficult to the offensive force.

The Strength of the Enemy

Perhaps even the Chinese military authorities themselves do not

1. As this issue of TOKYO GAZETTE goes to press, newspaper extras are announcing the entrance of the vanguard of the Japanese troops into Hankow.

know the exact numerical strength of the defenders of Hankow. Information obtained up to the present indicates that the number of divisions of troops in China is about 170, of which over 40 divisions are assigned to the northern base of the Tapiéh mountain range, over 10 along the northern bank of the Yangtze River, over 50 along the front south of the Yangtze, including the Teian, Nanchang and Yanghsin sectors, over 10 along the Canton-Hankow Railway, over 10 in and around Hankow and over 50 along the Lung-Hai Railway.

At the outbreak of hostilities, one Chinese division was made up of approximately 10,000 men. Now, apparently, a considerable number of divisions are reduced to a few thousand fighting men or less. According to a Chinese military officer recently taken prisoner near Shangcheng in Honan Province, some Chinese divisions are now only 800 or 1,000 strong. Hence, the actual numerical strength of the Chinese forces is not as large as the number of divisions in the field may suggest.

The Chinese troops on the northern front are mostly composed of Kwangsi soldiers, apparently under the command of General Pai Chung-hsi. In the southern front, central troops form the largest numbers, probably commanded by General Chang Fa-kwei. General Chen Cheng appears to be in charge of the troops in and around Hankow.

As most of the Chinese soldiers have experienced reverses in their engagements with the Japanese forces, there are only limited numbers of men that are fresh and well trained. It is estimated that General Chiang Kai-shek still retains about 50 divisions of central troops under his direct control. These troops are now mingled with the provincial troops on the first line defending Hankow. This accounts for the stubborn resistance being offered by the Chinese forces north and south of the Yangtze River.

When classified according to their origins, the Chinese armies consist of central troops under the direct control of General Chiang Kai-shek, troops affiliated with these central troops, Kwangsi troops, Canton troops, Szechuan troops, troops under General Sung Che-yuan, commander-in-chief of the 29th Army, the old northeastern troops formerly under the command of "Young" Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang, newly-organized troops and reserve corps. The majority of Chinese soldiers are forced into military service by press-gangs. They lack training and are low in morale, but it must be remembered that they are anti-Japanese to the core.

General Chiang's Tactics

General Chiang Kai-shek is actively engaged in the defence of Hankow, with his base set up in that city. There is no alternative for him, as he has declared himself, but to deal the Japanese forces as great a blow as possible in the battle for Hankow and to flee into the hinterland at the head of the central troops under his direct control. His is a desperate position. He is doing everything in his power to check the Japanese drive, going to the lengths of executing generals who have abandoned their positions with firing-squads, destroying all roads likely to be utilized by Japanese troops, flooding vast areas by breaching the dikes of the Yellow and Yangtze Rivers and setting up the strongest possible defence works in the path of the attackers.

When Hankow falls, whither goes Chiang Kai-shek? The vastness of China renders a correct prediction difficult. This much is certain: he will never abandon the existing line of communication. The Yangtze River, the highways along the river and the Canton-Hankow Railway form the life line for General Chiang. Hence, if the Japanese troops now operating in the area south of the Yangtze advance along these lines, Chiang Kai-shek will be exposed to grave danger.

Japanese Tactics

Japan seeks to make the battle for Hankow as decisive as the battle of Mukden during the Russo-Japanese War. However, the Japanese pincer movement against Hankow is not so comprehensive as a similar movement against Hsuechow owing to the present Japanese position which forbids such a sweeping campaign. Consequently, the Japanese forces are obliged to deal the Chinese troops as heavy damage as possible in one sector after another.

Since late in August, the pincer movement against Hankow has progressed smoothly. The campaign on the western side of the Lushan mountain range south of Kiukiang was as severe as the Shanghai campaign, while it took the Japanese more than 10 days to reduce the Chinese positions near Fukinshan Mountain close to the Shih River north of the Yangtze.

Operating as they are in an area over four hundred miles up the Yangtze from Shanghai, the Japanese forces are experiencing difficulty in securing an even supply of provisions in addition to the hardships encountered in driving along roads which are turned into quagmires after every heavy rainfall. The task of the baggage

corps, carrying munitions and provisions to the first lines along scores of miles of swampy ground may easily be imagined.

Yet, the Japanese forces have overcome all difficulties and hardships to date. Those pushing westward along the northern base of the Tapieh mountain range have already succeeded in taking Sinyang on the southern section of the Peking-Hankow Railway and are now driving on Wusheng Pass in that range, which forms the border between Honan and Hupeh Provinces. Other Japanese forces pushing westward along the southern bank of the Yangtze River have advanced to within eighty kilometres of Hankow, after taking Tienkiachen, Panpishan, Kichun and other forts on both sides of the river.

Significance of the Fall of Hankow

The fall of the Wu-Han district, namely that including Hankow, Wuchang and Hanyang is imminent as the Japanese, with steady onslaughts, are converging from north, south and east. Hankow, of course, is not only a topographically important city; it is the political, economic, military and transportation centre of the Chinese National Government. Its fall will have a profound effect upon the course of the China Affair. The National Government will thereby sustain a blow greater and more serious than that experienced with the fall of Nanking. Indeed, the Chiang-Kai-shek régime will degenerate into a mere provincial administration, being compelled to accept a back seat while the driver's seat will be taken by the new régime which will settle down to the task of rehabilitation and reconstruction of China in cooperation with Japan.

The fall of the Wu-Han district will mark the start of long-term reconstruction in China.

At the same time, it may be assumed that the guerrilla warfare let loose by General Chiang will be conducted more actively, while the Sino-Japanese counter-measures, that is clean-up campaigns against bandits and remnants of Nationalist troops, as well as measures for maintaining peace and order will be strengthened correspondingly.

Such results justify the heavy sacrifices now being paid by the Japanese in their drive on Hankow. Yet, the real accomplishment of Japan's crusade in China will start toward fulfilment with the long-term reconstruction and rehabilitation following the fall of that city.

BROADCASTING IN THE CURRENT EMERGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

ANNOUNCEMENT ! An order for precautionary light-control for the whole Western Air Defence area has just been issued from the Western Air Defence Headquarters."

This was an unprecedented broadcast made from the Kokura Station at 10:14 p.m., May 30, 1938, which put all Kyushu residents on their guard. Again, at eight minutes to 11 o'clock the same evening, an air-raid alarm was issued over the air from the same station for both Yamaguchi and Nagasaki Prefectures within the North Kyushu area. The occasion, as was subsequently disclosed, was the appearance over the western coast of Kagoshima of some aeroplanes of an unknown nationality about 9 o'clock that night. It is supposed that the perfect light-control then observed with no loss of time caused the enemy planes to disappear without attacking. The alarm was lifted the following day.

This was the first occasion on which a real air-raid alarm had been given in Japan—an historical event demonstrating the use of broadcasting in aerial defence.

"This detachment has been fighting at various points along the Tientsin-Pukow Line. We have just accomplished the first task assigned to us; we are now several kilometres from Tuhliuchen, marching in the best of spirits toward our next operation at an undisclosed point. This evening as we came to a halt, we casually set up our radio. What did we hear coming through the loud-speaker but our age-old war song: 'In our march o'er land, though we perish as the grass, our all is laid before His Majesty.' As we sat listening to the song here, far from home, with nothing ahead but the vast muddy stream flowing for thousands of miles, your broadcast excited within us an undefinable feeling of emotion and gratitude. For this we wish to thank you."

The above is a passage in a letter sent from the front to a broadcasting station.

Publicity Work through Broadcasting

Matters of supreme importance in achieving the objectives of the China Affair are a clear understanding, on the part of the people, of the whole situation, a perfect knowledge of the policies and

intentions of the Government, which will guide everyone to act and cooperate in accordance with national policies, and an appreciation of the purposes and actions of the people on the part of Government officials. Only then will come real unity on the part of the whole nation.

Broadcasting is the most appropriate means of realizing these objectives. It has a unique function which enables a single voice to address the entire population simultaneously. Therefore, when the China Affair broke out, radio news giving information of the progress of fighting and describing the activities of the Japanese troops was welcomed by the people. Their eager ears were turned to the loud-speaker on such occasions as the capture of Shanghai, the fall of Nanking, and the battle of Hsüchow. Encouraged by this eagerness, the Broadcasting Association offered "Early Morning News" for a prompter announcement of news from the front, "Comments on News" a supplement of the news providing a more accurate understanding for the general public, and "Today's News" a selection of news from the front published during the course of the day for the benefit of those in remote villages who are provided with no facilities for listening in during the day-time. As to the substance of the news, absolute accuracy is sought, because it is to be the basis for complete understanding of the situation and the basis for forming correct public opinion. Moreover, for the purpose of making such news still simpler, a program called "News Made Easy" was inaugurated.

Lectures given during the first few months after the outbreak of the incident near Marco Polo Bridge served to elucidate the development of the conflict and also to explain international relations. Since the present attitude toward long-term hostilities was taken, emphasis has been placed on explaining the so-called economic warfare which involves price questions as well as all economic problems confronting the population on the home front. Explanatory lectures on current topics by various experts were increased with a view to strengthening and furthering the popular understanding of the situation and to the directing of public opinion. Lieutenant-General Katsuki's lecture from Tientsin on August 1, 1937, soon after the outbreak of the conflict, and many others called "Field-Station Broadcasts," which are still given weekly from Tientsin and Shanghai, have been made in the hope of impressing listeners with the freshness and vividness of their contents.

A new aspect in broadcasting is that the Government through broadcasting has come to convey its policies and intentions to the people, seeking their understanding and cooperation. A strong

Government adequately representing popular wishes is born only out of understanding and cooperation between Government and people. Even before hostilities started, it had become customary for the Prime Minister to announce his political views to the nation directly over the radio. From last January, a ten-minute period from 7:30 every evening has been given over to the Government, at which time officials may make important statements and explanations of laws and ordinances. The radio has thus become an important organ for uniting the nation. And in view of the fact that the evolution of such policies as the adjustment of commodities and the encouragement of thrift and savings, all intimately connected with the daily life of the people, called for the cooperation of all Japanese based on patriotism, the Department of Communications itself sponsored the program, "Popular Talks on Current Events," in which the wartime duties of the people were elucidated in plain, concrete language.

The National Spiritual Mobilization movement has now become an overwhelming national movement. In September, 1937, the Broadcasting Association sponsored a "National Cooperation Week" in the programs of which a number of prominent speakers drawn from all quarters and classes of the nation urged the people to support the Government policies toward China. More recently, delegates from each prefecture were invited to speak regarding their contributions to the movement and their own personal experiences. Such programs served not only to intensify the unity between Government and people on the home front but also to encourage the soldiers in China.

Broadcasts within Japan Proper are relayed to Chosen and Taiwan and some to Manchoukuo, North and Central China. The radio has been instrumental in cementing the relations of a hundred million people in Japan, Manchoukuo and China. The "Overseas Broadcasts" have generally achieved satisfactory results; in fact broadcasting is playing an important part in the construction of New China, but that is another story.

Programs of Entertainment

Entertainment programs now being broadcast bear close connection to the current situation. Certain programs offer numbers inspiring bravery and courage among the people. Others provide dramas and other entertainment features in which are interwoven the objectives of the National Spiritual Mobilization movement. To enhance the national spirit and raise the morale of the people,

simple and popular broadcasts of *naniwabushi*,¹ *biwa*² music and *gidayū*,³ of stories concerning the activities of Japanese soldiers, inspiring anecdotes concerning patriotic people on the home front, historical tales of loyalty and bravery in ancient and modern times, and of other educational material commendable in the light of promotion of the Japanese spirit are regularly given. Recreation and good cheer, enlightenment and faith in the future are the features which the Broadcasting Association is striving to offer to an eager public. Broadcasts directed toward those wounded in action and to those fighting at the front are also being given regularly.

Toward improving the health of the people, broadcasting is assisting by presenting radio exercises several times daily.

The importance of entertainment broadcasts as a means of furthering Japanese culture also is receiving due attention. By means of the radio, new interest is being cultivated in national plays and in the development of a national music.

Increased Popularity of the Radio

The China Affair has brought about a record increase in the number of radio owners in Japan. During the year from August, 1937 to July, 1938, this number increased by 680,000. The total has now reached 3,800,000—that is, if a family comprises five individuals, some 20,000,000 people listen to the radio every day. This remarkable increase in listeners is influenced by the interest which Japanese are taking in news items, by the increase in programs dealing with national policies, and by improvements in entertainment features. The following new provisions concerning installations of radios and fees have also been instrumental in increasing the number of listeners.

1. Exemption from subscription and registration fees⁴ and invitations to make installations addressed to all municipal, ward, town and village offices, police stations, post offices and other offices in direct contact with the general public.
2. Appeal made to the Young Men's Associations throughout the country to install one receiving set per local branch.

1. A form of historical story telling accompanied by Japanese musical instruments.

2. This music played on the *biwa* forms the accompaniment to story telling similar to the above.

3. A form of ballad-drama, or simple opera.

4. Owners of receiving sets in Japan pay 50 sen a month to the Japan Broadcasting Association. Commercial programs are not presented over Japanese radio stations.

3. Exemption from subscription and registration fees granted to families having members at the front.

4. Donation of receiving sets to villages not provided with radios.

5. Rules enforced in each prefecture prohibiting excessively loud reception and electrical interferences.

6. Night broadcasts relayed to localities where electric current is not provided during the day.

7. Increase to power of 150 kilowatts of JOAK, Tokyo Station.

These provisions appear to have benefited rural districts greatly as is indicated by the greater increase of installations in villages in recent years than in towns. The ratio of increase in installations in towns and villages during recent years has been as follows :

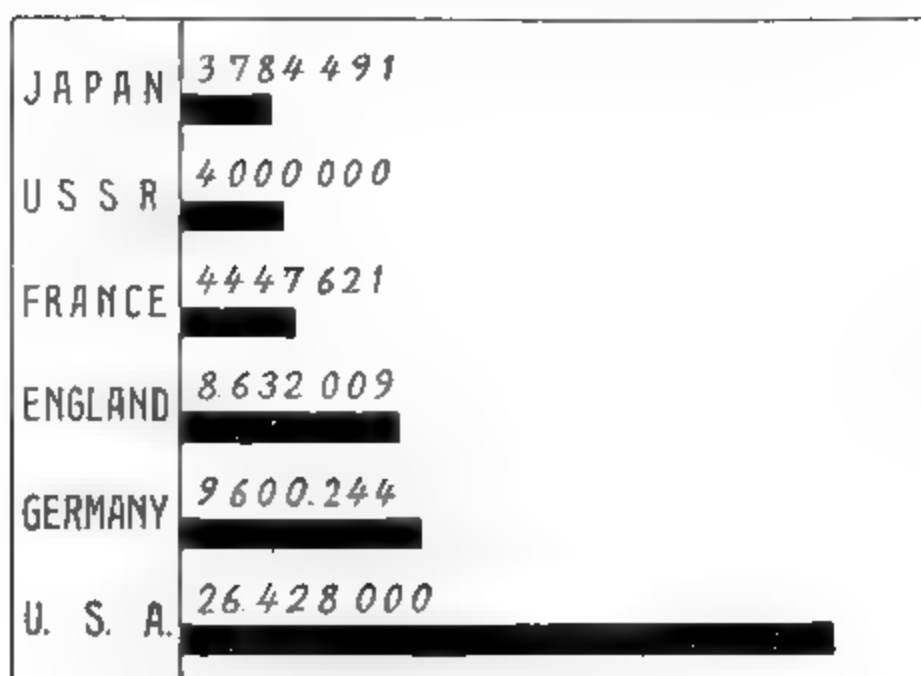
Year	Towns	Villages
1931	63.2 %	36.8 %
1936	14.7 %	45.3 %
1937	48.1 %	51.9 %

In other countries, also, the increase in installations of radios is conspicuous. In spite of the rapid development of the radio in Japan in recent years, she ranks only sixth in number of installations, coming after the United States, Germany, Great Britain, France and Soviet Russia. In the number of broadcasting stations, Japan ranks approximately 20th.

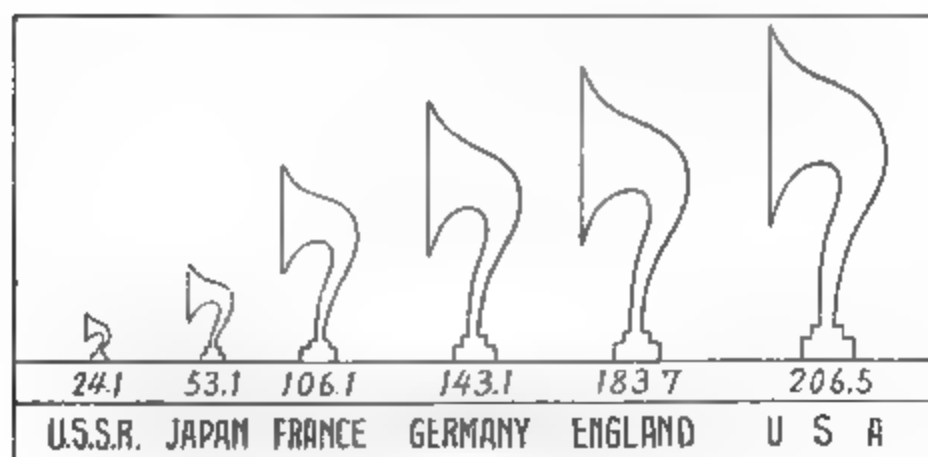
More broadcasts will involve the improvement of broadcasting programs, the manufacture of cheap but adequate receiving sets, the lowering of the cost of electric power, and the prevention of electrical interferences. Such progress will depend greatly upon the initiative and cooperation of manufacturers and dealers of radio apparatus and upon the efforts of electrical engineers and officials of broadcasting stations and of the Government. Should these combined efforts induce every family to install a radio and every Japanese to become a listener, the perfect radio age will be achieved in Japan.

Charts showing the number of installations and ratio of receiving sets to populations in leading countries are given on the following page.

NUMBER OF RECEIVING SETS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES



RATIO OF DIFFUSION IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES



Numbers refer to radio owners per 1,000 persons of the total population.

THE STORE LAW

DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE

LEGISLATION regulating the business hours of stores, particularly small stores, has long been under consideration in Japan. The Store Law now in effect was approved as presented at the 73rd session of the Imperial Diet (1938) and issued as Law No. 28 on March 26th. With the promulgation on August 31st of Imperial Ordinance No. 618 concerning the date of enforcement of the Store Law, it came into force on October 1st.

Purpose of the Law

In proposing the bill regulating stores to the Diet, the Government gave the following reasons :

Business hours of stores in Japan are uselessly long, extending to midnight in many cases. From the viewpoint of health and hygiene this is to be deplored. Business hours of stores must be restricted in an appropriate manner; a holiday system protecting employees must be set up.

The primary purpose of the Store Law, therefore, is to promote health and hygienic conditions in employees of stores.

Examination of the actual conditions prevailing in the operation of stores in Japan reveals that business hours are uselessly long and irregular, as such matters are left entirely in the hands of proprietors. The closing time in numerous cases is later than 11 o'clock or even 12 o'clock at night. The closing time of department stores is fixed under the Department Store Law, while that of restaurants and other eating places is restricted by police regulations. However, there has been no law restricting business hours or fixing the closing time for stores in general from the standpoint of protecting employees, although certain voluntary restrictions exist under agreements reached by commercial organizations. These voluntary agreements have not been operating satisfactorily in most business enterprises with the exception of barber shops. Elsewhere, long working hours are subjecting store employees to over-exertion and are seriously affecting their health.

Results of the recent physical examination for conscription show that men employed in business have inferior physiques to those in other occupations. Among those rated as first-grade conscripts,

for example, men engaged in fishing occupied the predominant position, followed by those engaged in mining, transportation, agriculture, manufacturing industries and commerce. Among those who were classed as third-grade conscripts, men employed in commerce outnumbered the others. These facts indicate conspicuously that men employed in stores have very poor physiques. Herein lies the significance of the present legislation.

The secondary purpose of the Store Law is to give store employees an opportunity for self-culture, study and training. Under present working conditions, employees have little time for study and mental development; they are too often denied the opportunity of becoming trained businessmen. This state of affairs is not only unfortunate for the employees themselves, but it constitutes serious losses to the proprietors of stores as well. The nation suffers too, inasmuch as many promising youths are not given chances to grow in usefulness.

With the enforcement of the Store Law, employees will have a little spare time in the evenings and those interested will be able to utilize holidays to improve and train themselves. If thoughtful proprietors of shops and business leaders take the opportunity created by the enactment of the present law to direct more positive efforts toward the betterment of treatment of their employees and set up cultural institutions and measures designed to raise their physical standard, it will mean that the Store Law has laid a foundation for important improvements in social welfare.

Thirdly, it may be pointed out that to restrict adequately the present uselessly long and irregular business hours is to economize in operating expenses and to rationalize the management of stores. In the case of restaurants and other eating houses, there may be a considerable volume of business even after 10 o'clock at night, but in the case of ordinary stores or barber shops, business would be trifling after this hour. Basically, the total volume of purchases by consumers in a city has certain limits; it fluctuates little according to early or late closings. In general, late closing times cause a reduction in the ratio of business profits to operating expenses. In other words, by closing stores late at night, proprietors sacrifice themselves for the benefit of casual customers.

An official survey conducted in this connection some years ago in the busiest sections of representative cities throughout the country—sections that thrive particularly on evening business—showed that the number of customers after 10 o'clock was but 3.2 per cent of the total for the day; proceeds of sales after 10 o'clock amounted to only 3.3 per cent of the day's business.

There are many cases in which leading stores have been able to rationalize their management and to increase their sales by closing their establishments earlier at night. Regulation of closing times by law would rather be beneficial to stores, enabling them to economize in electric light charges, fuel and diverse other items, since there is no fear that the legal restrictions would cause unfair competition from other stores. Some proprietors advocated the promulgation of such regulations long ago, not simply for the protection of their employees, but because they expected to rationalize their business under these conditions.

Substance of the Law

The Store Law consists of 18 Articles. It provides rules governing the closing time and holidays, special rules regarding large stores, rules protecting the health of employees and prevention of injuries, rules governing store management and penalty provisions.

1. The Scope of Application (Articles 1 and 17)

In view of the fact that restriction of business hours is required mainly in cities, this law is applied to cities. When the Minister of Welfare considers it necessary to prevent injustice to city stores and unfair competition by town and village stores against city stores, the law may be made applicable to towns and villages adjoining cities. The Government has no intention for the time being of applying the law to other rural communities.

The Store Law is applied to merchandise sales businesses, barber shops, hair dressers and beauty parlours. The merchandise sales business includes wholesale and retail stores, but restaurants and other eating places are excluded by virtue of an Imperial Ordinance. From the standpoint of protection of employees, the law should be applied to restaurants, but the Government has decided to exempt these for the present because it is extremely difficult to restrict their business hours in a manner similar to that of other businesses, in view of the peculiar conditions under which they are operated. Special legislation here is being contemplated.

Article 1 of the present law provides that the law is applicable to merchandise sales businesses, barber shops, hair dressers and beauty parlours run for profit. However, Article 17 provides that the law is applicable as well to all such enterprises operated by cities, towns, villages, cooperative industrial societies and cooperative consumers societies on a non-profit making basis. From the point of view of protection of employees, there is no reason for the latter to be exempted :

2 Regulation on Closing Time (Articles 2, 3 and 4)

Working hours must be restricted. However, due consideration must be given to the fact that stores are operated to attract customers, and it is extremely difficult for them to accomplish business purposes within strictly limited hours of operation under the circumstances prevailing in Japan. The present law, therefore, regulates only the closing time and but indirectly restricts the working hours of employees, leaving this latter problem for future solution.

The law in principle fixes the closing hour at 10 o'clock at night. It prohibits sales of merchandise, hair cutting, hair dressing and beauty parlour services after that time.

A few exceptions are recognized. For instance, the law permits sales and services for customers who enter stores before the closing hour and remain. The law also allows sales of merchandise after closing time to customers who wish to buy articles for emergency purposes.

For districts where business thrives especially during the evening and where it is extremely difficult for stores to close at 10 o'clock, prefectural governors (Metropolitan Police Headquarters in Tokyo) are authorized to extend the closing time to 11 o'clock within certain limited areas. In designating such special areas, decisions are to be made after consulting chambers of commerce and industry or other organizations within the involved districts, in accordance with prescribed rules. Again, during periods of unusual business activity—year-end, new year, mid-summer gift season, holidays, etc.—prefectural governors, when deemed necessary, may extend the closing time or suspend the application of the rules governing the closing time within limited areas and periods of time, all not to exceed 60 days throughout the year.

3. Holidays (Article 5)

The Store Law provides that proprietors of stores must give at least one holiday a month to their employees. It is not necessary to close the stores, although it is considered best to adopt such a system giving complete holidays once a month to employees. In certain lines regular monthly holidays are already established. Yet, under prevailing conditions, it is difficult to enforce a rigid holiday system through legal measures and the Government has avoided it accordingly. The authorities take the view that it is preferable to have businessmen start the system on an autonomous basis in the lines where its realization is possible, so that the system may spread gradually.

4. Exemption of Stores in Special Districts (Article 6)

Stores attached to amusement enterprises, exhibitions, expositions, fairs or other similar places where it is impossible to close shop at 10 o'clock may be exempted from the provisions of the law with the permission of prefectural governors. Temporary enterprises such as exhibitions and expositions are exempted from the application of the provisions on holidays, provided that the enterprises have been approved by the prefectural governors.

5. Working Hours and Holidays of Large Stores (Articles 7 and 8)

The business of large commercial establishments is conducted systematically. There is no reason why they should be treated differently from factories that come under the Factory Law which provides the limits of working hours and holidays for minor workers under the age of 16 and female operatives. The Store Law provides, therefore, that large commercial establishments where 50 or more persons are employed regularly are required, as under the Factory Law, to limit the working hours for female and minor employees under the age of 16 to less than 11 hours a day, including 20 minutes rest time to the hour. The law also requires that such employees be given two or more holidays a month.

Large commercial establishments may extend the maximum working hours, as in the case of stores in general, in busy times on the approval of prefectural governors. Such times are limited to 60 days within the year. Large establishments may further extend working hours beyond this 60-day period in cases of extraordinary necessity, on approval of the authorities. Similarly, the number of holidays may be cut to one a month in unusually busy seasons.

6. Promotion of Health and Prevention of Casualties (Article 9)

The Store Law authorizes prefectural governors to issue various orders regarding the prevention of injuries and the promotion of health at all times advisable. The law specifically requires the proprietors of stores with 50 or more employees to provide at least one bench for every three female employees whose work requires them to remain standing over long periods.

7. Street-stalls and Shops on Ships and Trains

The present law is not applied to stores on trains, steamships and other transportation services. Nor does it apply to street-stalls. However, it authorizes prefectural governors to fix the closing time for the latter, since it is possible to cause unfair competition between general stores and street-stalls if the latter are permitted to engage in unrestricted business while the former are required to close at 10 o'clock.

Social Implications of the Law

Legislation protecting workers is not new in Japan. Various laws such as the Factory Law, the Mining Enterprises Law, the Law Governing the Minimum Age of Workers and the Health Insurance Law have long been in force. However, there have been no legal measures protecting employees in commercial establishments. The Store Law is indeed the forerunner in its kind, and its importance is to be found in the fact that the Government has established a basis for the systematic protection of commercial employees.

The number of store employees who receive protection under this law is approximately 1,400,000. The Store Law is applicable to proprietors of stores and their employees only. It imposes no legal obligations on third parties. The law is certain to have far-reaching consequences to society in that it prohibits sales or services to customers after 10 o'clock at night.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW REGIMES IN CHINA

BUREAU OF INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

IN reading anti-Japanese newspapers published in China, one is struck with the frequency with which the term "traitor" is used. This may be construed as revealing the existence of a state of affairs quite contrary to Chinese propaganda which elaborates on the unshaken, united stand of the entire nation against Japan prevailing throughout the country. Its more important significance, however, is that such an apparently contradictory use—contradictory from the point of view of propaganda—of this opprobrious term indicates the desperate efforts being made by the leaders of the anti-Japanese national front for checking and counteracting the growing tendency among the people toward appreciating and supporting the principles and policies of the new régimes in Peking and Nanking.

This press campaign aiming at alienating the people from the new régimes by means of reckless application of this disgraceful term had proven effective for some time, since it is the name by which no one in any type of collective life wishes to be called. But as the situation has changed, the false charge has lost its restraining force in the face of realities. The number of thinking people who have come to be connected with the new Governments has increased. Accordingly, the anti-Japanese front has been driven to cry "traitor" all the more frequently.

An Important Move

Discerning this favourable turn of tide, the leaders of the new régimes made an important move in the direction of their union which had already been decided on in principle. Thus their representatives, Tang Erh-ho of the Peking Government and Liang Hung-Chih, Wen Tsung-yao and Chen Chun of the Nanking Government, held preliminary conversations at Dairen on the ninth and tenth of September, which resulted in complete agreement in views. After the two-day conference of September 20th and 21st, the Federal Committee of the Governments of the Chinese Republic was formally inaugurated on September 22nd at Peking. Following this significant ceremony, the Committee issued a statement, which reads in part as follows:

Development of the situation has been carefully followed and studied by the two Governments since their establishment in close succession several months ago. They have found it difficult to execute important political affairs in the state of their separate existence. Further deliberations are needed, however, before the Central Government is established.

As a result of thoroughgoing studies and conferences, the Federal Committee of the Governments of the Republic of China, has been organized with a view to realizing united anti-Communist principles and policies in accordance with the spirit of national salvation.

Mr. Wang Ko-min, Chairman of the Administrative Council of the Peking Government, has been elected Chairman of the Committee, other members being Messrs. Wang I-tang and Chu Shen of the Peking Government and Messrs. Liang Hung-chih, Wen Tsung-yao and Chen Chun of the Nanking Government. Messrs. Chu Shen and Wen Tsung-yao have been elected members of the Standing Committee.

What Messrs. Wang Ko-min and Liang Hung-chih told the press representatives after the inauguration is to be particularly noted as indicating an important line of policy to be followed. They said :

In organizing the Federal Committee we have laid the foundation for the establishment of the central régime of China. This Committee will naturally be expanded in the event of participation by other new régimes which will be established hereafter in other parts of the country.

The establishment of the Committee has an important significance in that the two new régimes having a community of purpose and ideal have pledged themselves in concrete terms for future union. It also means the unification of régimes within the areas under Japanese occupation. By this step the objective of organization of the highest political organ for the whole of China in collaboration with new régimes which may come into being with the extension of occupied areas has been clearly and definitely made known. Furthermore, the principles adopted in organizing the new Committee shows the attitude of fairness and open-mindedness on the part of the leaders of the Governments of Peking and Nanking in that they are not planning to place other régimes to be created hereafter under their domination but to unite with them on the basis of equality in establishing the Central Government. Doubtless, such an attitude will receive general acceptance and welcome throughout the country.

The activities of the Peking and Nanking Régimes during these months since their establishment have been mainly in the nature of laying the foundation, as have been explained by their leaders. Their achievements along this line have been reassuring. Under the rule of the Government at Peking such activities as establishment and adjustment of administrative organs, readjustment of currency, and maintenance of peace and order have successfully been carried out, and the work of developing natural resources has been started with Japanese aid. Simultaneously, in increasingly large areas under the rule of the Government, at Nanking various enterprises have been rehabilitated and reconstructed, keeping pace with the advancing of the Japanese front line. Thus, steps for the reopening of customs at Central China ports have been taken and those for the revival of navigation enterprises and trade activities on the Yangtze River are being contemplated. Such being the case, in the event of the fall of Hankow, export and import trade conducted by way of the Yuch Han Railway will be done thereafter by way of the Yangtze River, a situation which is favourable for business enterprises reconstructed under the rule of the new régime.

Another factor favourable for the advance of the two new Governments is the present mentality of the masses in the areas under their rule. Tired of their hard lots caused by the prolonged hostilities, they long for peace. What they want above everything else is to work and sleep in peace. If, therefore, they understand the real intentions of Japan and realize that they have been induced to participate in futile and irrational action against Japan, they will no doubt come back to their former peaceful occupations as good citizens.

Which Way the Chekiang Financial Clique ?

In connection particularly with reconstruction of commercial and industrial enterprises, the attitude of the so-called Chekiang financial clique of Kiangsu and Chekiang Provinces toward the new régimes assumes no small importance. They are, in reality, being manipulated by the Nationalist leaders with both sweet and threatening words. Accordingly, they cannot launch reconstruction activities in Central China, nor can they make up their minds, in response to the Nationalist invitation, to move their enterprises to the interior of Szechwan and Yunnan Provinces. Their recent movements in Kowloon appear to be only perfunctory ones, and nothing concrete has come out of them. A turn of tide, therefore, will prove sufficient pressure for them to take definite steps toward re-

constructing their enterprises in Central China. They are basically against the Communists. Funds used by General Chiang Kai-shek for suppressing the Chinese Reds were offered by them. However, intimately related to the Generalissimo as they are, they will not and cannot accompany him beyond the grave, particularly side by side with the Reds whom they abhor. What is in the minds of the Financial Clique appears to be this: in case the Nationalist dictator succeeds in resisting Japan, they will induce him to carry out a purge of the party; but in case he fails completely, they will offer the new Régime their allegiance at a certain material sacrifice.

Revolt in the Nationalist Camp

According to recent news from Chekiang Province, a volunteer army has been organized in an unoccupied area in that Province and started action against the Nationalist forces. As a matter of fact, the greater part of that Province, which covers at the same time the greater part of its plain, has already been occupied by Japanese forces, leaving a part of the plain and the hilly and mountainous districts to the living of the people under the Chiang Régime. Reduced to such straitened circumstances, any people would struggle for their liberation. The revolt of the volunteers must be an inevitable outcome of circumstance. The unoccupied area is noted for its tea industry, which is interfered with to a considerable extent by the present hostilities. This may in part account for the revolt and its support by the masses.

In North China, too, those remnants of the Nationalist forces who have been made responsible for guerrilla warfare in that part of the country have not remained faithful to their duty. Their units are surrendering to the Japanese forces one after another, disillusioned by the failure of their warfare and the growing scarcity of their provisions.

From the Japanese Point of View

The current Chinese situation, though developing favourably to the new régimes which are organized on the principles of anti-Communism and collaboration with Japan, in no way precludes the necessity of preparing the Japanese nation for prolonged hostilities against the Nationalist-Communist, anti-Japanese front. Almost unprecedented extension of the battle front, vastness of territories both occupied and unoccupied, and obdurate resistance of the anti-

Japanese front with the Comintern as its background have to be reckoned with seriously. The approaching fall of the Wuhan area is to be considered, therefore, not as the end but as the beginning of another phase of a prolonged campaign for construction of a new China and of lasting peace in East Asia.

SUPERVISION OF PHYSICAL STRENGTH

BUREAU OF PHYSICAL STRENGTH, DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE

IT is being realized at present that the body of an individual does not necessarily belong to himself alone, since the pursuit of his daily occupation in good health and with a sound mind not only brings him individual happiness but promotes his country's welfare. This is particularly true in Japan whose natural resources are scarce and where human resources must be cultivated and strengthened.

Supervision of physical strength, therefore, has been started and preparatory investigations concerning it have been conducted among those living in the prefectures of Tokyo, Osaka, Saitama, Shizuoka, Akita, Ishikawa, Ehime and Fukuoka. This article gives an outline of the preparatory investigations and the purposes of the supervision.

The System of Supervision

This system achieves two purposes. By investigation, the true state of the national physical strength is to be surveyed. During the investigation, all those who are examined are to be given directions whereby they may improve their health and improve the general physical standard. Thus, during each examination, the individual is informed of his physical excellence or defects and is given a note-book including this information, with advice and practical suggestions whereby he may develop his bodily strength. Out of the information gleaned concerning the state of the health of the nation, the Government intends to establish a national policy by means of which it may enlarge and complete existing institutions protecting and promoting the national health.

The ages of individuals to be examined were selected only after various opinions had been expressed. However, to establish the most accurate estimate of the national physical strength, preliminary investigations were made from the following groups: one-year olds born from June 1, 1938 to June 30, 1938; two-year olds born from March 2, 1936 to March 1, 1937; four-year olds born from March 2, 1934 to March 1, 1935; eight-year olds born from March 2, 1930 to March 1, 1931; sixteen-year olds born from March 2, 1922 to March 1, 1923, and nineteen-year olds born from March 2, 1919 to March 1, 1920.

Objectives of the Examinations

This is an itemized statement of the objectives of the examinations.

1. Physical Measurements

Stature, weight, girth of the chest, height when seated, arm-girth and lung power were recorded. The general bodily shape and visual and hearing powers were also given attention.

2. Estimates of Athletic Ability

Machines exercising the whole body and pulling equipments were used to form these estimates. Individuals were also required to hop continuously on one foot, to run and to execute triple jumps. Muscular power, endurance, ability to make adjustments and circulation of the blood formed the basis of the estimates.

3. Mental Tests

Examination of both mental and spiritual functions was deemed advisable in the preparatory investigations ; however, in view of obvious difficulties, only mental tests have been given.

4. Discovery of Diseases and Abnormal Conditions

Diseases primarily causing a decline in the national physical strength and abnormal conditions hindering the building up of health were carefully looked for. Tests for tuberculosis, trachoma, venereal diseases, parasitic diseases, mental disorders and dental diseases were given.

Adjustments were naturally made in the examinations according to ages. One-year old babies were, in most cases, only weighed ; tests requiring physical exertion were given only to boys over twelve years of age.

Although this preparatory examination may appear to be but cursory, its results are expected to be far-reaching and may serve to determine the success or failure of the national policy toward the supervision of national physical strength.

MAP SHOWING ADVANCE OF
JAPANESE FORCES IN CENTRAL
CHINA BETWEEN OCTOBER 6TH
AND 11TH



THE SITUATION IN CHINA

I

—ADVANCE OF THE IMPERIAL ARMY—

BUREAU OF INFORMATION, WAR DEPARTMENT

The Japanese Army's pincer movement against Hankow is steadily being tightened, as progress is being reported from the campaigns in the north, south and east. The Chinese, falling back upon geographical advantages, are offering stiff resistance, but one after another of their important military positions are falling before sustained Japanese onslaughts.

THE FRONT NORTH OF THE YANGTZE

The Kueih, Kwangchow and Loehai Sectors

Kueih, a strategically important town on the southeastern border of Honan Province, was occupied by a Japanese force on the evening of September 6th. This force left Kueih at 10 o'clock the following morning and crossed the Ku River. On September 8th, some 2,000 Chinese soldiers armed with trench-mortars were defeated near Hsuehokiao, while another enemy detachment was routed from Hutsupu, about 4 kilometres west of the Ku River the next evening. The enemy forces consisted of the Chinese 38th infantry division and 8th cavalry division. The enemy left about 120 dead in the engagements with the Japanese right wing. The Japanese casualties on September 8th and 9th totalled 18 killed and 82 injured.

The Japanese troops kept up their western drive and on September 10th started an attack near Sanchiaotien, about 24 kilometres west of Kueih. At 9 a.m., the following day, Sanchiaotien was taken. The enemy force consisted of part of the Chinese 38th division and left about 130 dead. At 3 p.m., the same day, fighting was begun between the Japanese and Chinese forces near Chunhotai. At 10:30 p.m., the Japanese column reached Hwangszekang, and on the night of September 12th advanced to a point about 12 kilometres northeast of Kwangchow.

The vanguard of the Japanese forces reached the Pailou River on September 12th, when they started a movement for encircling Kwangchow. The Ohta and Nishitajo detachments advanced to the left bank of the Pailou River near Hsintsi, about 12 kilometres north of Kwangchow on September 14th, reaching a line some 4 kilometres northwest of Kwangchow. In concert with the main body, part of the Japanese forces started a drive on Kwangchow southward from Sanpingsze. The main

Chinese force, apparently broken in spirit, retreated southward, after a slight engagement with the Japanese troops, which, covered by artillery and aeroplanes, stormed the west gate of Kwangchow at 8:30 a.m., September 17th and completely occupied the walled town at 8 o'clock by routing the remnants of the Chinese troops, which had offered stubborn resistance in southern Kwangchow. Kwangchow lies at the northern base of the Tapich mountain range, forming an important junction of highways in Honan Province.

On September 16th, the Ohta detachment pushed to Loshan from Kwangchow and the same evening reached Changhuen. By dislodging the enemy from the left bank of the Sha River on September 18th, this detachment attacked the enemy positions at a point 8 kilometres east of Loshan at 6 a.m., September 19th. The same day, the Mori detachment left Kwangchow for Kwangshan. By routing the enemy on the way, this unit occupied Kwangshan on September 20th.

The vanguard of the Japanese troops, which advanced on Loshan, about 40 kilometres west of Kwangchow, stormed the south gate of Loshan early on September 21st and the main body entered the walled town at 10:30 o'clock the same morning. In pursuit of the enemy which was retreating westward, the Ohta and Nishitajo detachments started a drive on Wulien. Meanwhile enemy reinforcements were arriving at Wulien by motor-lorry, where they offered stubborn resistance. Strong defence works were also set up between Lankanpu, Szeho, Wulien and Sinyang.

The Chinese forces taking part in the engagements in this sector from September 21st to September 24th were the 28th, 123rd and 128th divisions in addition to a volunteer corps and a training cadre. They left 280 dead, while the Japanese casualties were 27 killed and 63 injured.

The Japanese forces started a general attack on the enemy troops round Loshan on September 30th. Those attacking the enemy at a point 4 kilometres west of Loshan and also at Shwangtuen and Yonghsiaowan, 8 kilometres south of Loshan, broke through the enemy positions on October 2nd and pushed further west and southwest. The Chinese at Tsingshantien, southwest of Loshan, were reinforced and offered stiff resistance in an attempt to recapture the lost positions.

Chinese planes appeared over Loshan from time to time to bomb the Japanese positions, but no serious damage was sustained by the Japanese side. A Japanese military air unit encountered eight Chinese planes of the S.B. type over Wulien at 8:20 a.m., October 6th and brought down two of them, one at Lingshan, south of Sinyang, and the other near Tcian.

Splendid services were rendered by a Japanese military force which advanced by water up the Hwai River from Anhwei to Honan Province.

In an effort to cooperate with the Japanese forces which were operating in the Kueih sector in Honan Province, the Mamiya detachment took to the Hwai River. This detachment, at 10:30 a.m., September 7th reached Changchuanetsi, about 30 kilometres west of Wukongtsi. The following day, it engaged about 330 enemy cavalymen at Shangyukang, some 24 kilometres northeast of Kwangchow. At 1:20 p.m., the same day, it occupied Shangyukang, thus discharging its mission successfully. About 1 p.m., September 10th, 500 Chinese soldiers, armed with 3 mountain-

guns counter-attacked the detachment, which, however, succeeded in driving them to the southwest.

The Fukinshan and Shangcheng Sectors

The Japanese troops which reached Yehkiatsi, an important town on the western border of Anhwei Province, launched an attack on the powerful enemy force which had established strong positions in the mountainous area west of the Shui River, including Mount Fukinshan. The enemy force consisted of eleven divisions and a students corps from the Military Cadets' School, including the 31st, 35th, 61st, 113th, 114th, 37th, 88th, 132nd, 133rd, 139th infantry divisions and the 13th cavalry division.

At nightfall, September 6th, a detachment of the Japanese right wing succeeded in defeating the Chinese 88th division and about 1,000 students of the Military Cadets' School, while the main body of the right wing routed the enemy at Pengkiapan and Liukia. The left wing battered the enemy positions on Mount Fukinshan, but did not succeed in occupying the summit of the mountain. Another Japanese force which drove from the north reached the area west of Wulungyen, about 8 kilometres southeast of Kuolutan, at 6 p.m., September 6th, without encountering any hostile force on the way.

The situation in the Mount Fukinshan sector did not witness any marked development on September 7th, but the Japanese right wing advanced considerably, so that its first line reached Shunhotien by 5 p.m. The enemy in front of the Japanese right wing had also set up strong defence works. By the evening of September 7th, about 140 Chinese machine-gun emplacements were destroyed. It is ascertained that the enemy left over 2,300 dead by September 8th.

The Japanese detachment which took Wulungyen on September 6th pushed further west and started an attack on the enemy positions near Changpoling at dawn, September 8th, when the Chinese 27th division and a students corps of the Military Cadets' School made their appearance before the Japanese right wing.

Sustained attacks were made on the 800-metre hill on September 9th, while the extreme left of the right wing succeeded in capturing an eastern peak of Mount Fukinshan. The enemy left over 300 dead in front of the Japanese right wing on September 9th, while over a dozen enemy machine-gun emplacements were destroyed.

There was no change in the situation on September 10th except that the Chinese positions at the base of the 800-metre hill were taken by the Japanese right wing.

The Japanese casualties from September 3rd to September 8th totalled 626.

A general attack was launched on September 11th, covered by an artillery unit, just arrived and air units. The Japanese left wing occupied Mount Fukinshan at 9:30, the same evening, while the right wing took the 800-metre hill at 6 a.m., September 12th. The main body of the enemy forces apparently retreated, leaving part of their troops on the summits of the

hills to cover their retreat. The enemy troops near Shunhotien kept up stiff resistance.

On the night of September 11th, an enemy detachment, armed with trench-mortars attacked Kaishunkai in the rear of the Japanese positions, but was repulsed the following morning.

In the engagements in the Mount Fukinshan sector from September 3rd to September 13th, the enemy left 4,630 dead in addition to 101 who were taken prisoner. The Japanese booty included 3 trench-mortars, 2 heavy machine-guns, 36 light machine-guns and 491 rifles.

Chasing the enemy which fled from the Mount Fukinshan sector, the Japanese forces reached Fangkiatsi at 9 a.m., September 14th and the line connecting Hsiungkiawa, Liangtung and Kuchenshan, about 8 kilometres southwest of Fangkiatsi at 5:30, the same afternoon. The following day, they made a further drive westward and dislodged the enemy troops from the height northwest of Tengkiatsi. A Japanese mobile force at 9:05 a.m., September 16th, successfully stormed Shangcheng, covered by air units. The main body of the Japanese forces also entered Shangcheng the same day, while part of them pushed further westward and reached the River Ku. Shangcheng lies at the northern base of the Tapih mountain range. The Chinese forces had established an important base of operations there.

On September 18th, part of the Japanese forces started from Shangcheng for a southern drive on Shawo. By dislodging the enemy troops from Yukiatsi, the Japanese detachment at 4:30 p.m., September 20th, occupied the foothills of the Tapih range west and southwest of Shawo and also east of Taposhih, from which about 1,000 Chinese soldiers were routed.

The Japanese force which occupied the Chinese positions near Shawo on September 20th made preparations for further attacks. At dawn, September 22nd, an attack was started on the enemy positions near Mapanshan, which was taken at 9:45 a.m., September 26th, together with a height north of Hsiaomahwangchung.

An enemy detachment made its appearance north of Shawo, but Japanese troops on the evening of September 28th advanced to Yangkiawan, while part of them occupied the height north of Wuwan, which lies east of Shawo, thus establishing junction with the first line. The enemy forces in front of Mapanshan made repeated counter attacks but in vain.

Those Japanese troops which had been attacking the enemy positions on the hill west of Shawo succeeded in capturing the 950-metre hill on the afternoon of September 28th and advanced to the highway between Kwangchow and Shawo on September 30th. A hill west of the highway was also taken.

Another Japanese detachment occupied Puchiaoyuan, about 12 kilometres north of Shawo.

Still another Japanese detachment dislodged the Chinese troops from the heights on both banks of the Erhiao River near Tsushanyen, which stands about 2 kilometres south of Fangkiatsi on September 14th and reached Tungkiamao at 7 a.m., September 16th.

The Kurabayashi detachment which drove from Shangcheng on Sintien reached Tachuantien, about 22 kilometres south of Shangcheng on the night of September 18th. This detachment at 1:30 p.m., September 20th

occupied Kaokrapan, about 1 kilometre northeast of Sintien.

The unit then turned its attention to the Chinese positions at Taochanping, which were provided with powerful machine-gun emplacements. At 2:50 p.m., September 21st, the Japanese force advanced to a point about 1 kilometre south of Taochanping, while part of this detachment reached Kungkiawang.

According to a statement of Chinese prisoners, the numerical strength of Chinese divisions of troops in this sector was reduced to 800 or 1,000 mostly recruited from that part of Honan Province with Shangcheng as centre, but the Chinese commanding officers were strong in their anti-Japanese sentiments. The Chinese forces in this sector left 659 dead in addition to 11 who were taken prisoner up to September 24th. The Japanese casualties were 15 killed and 47 injured.

Movements of the Japanese troops in this sector were seriously hampered by heavy rains after September 17th, which turned the roads into quagmires and flooded rivers. The Japanese had to wait until September 26th for an improvement of the weather before resuming their activities.

Part of the Japanese force dislodged about 500 soldiers from the left bank of the Ku River near Shengkiauen, 12 kilometres north of Sintien and drove southwest of Tungchen, while the Japanese troops near Taochanping also started an attack on the Chinese positions near Sintien.

The Kwangtsi, Hwangmei and Tienkiachen Sectors

Part of the Japanese forces which occupied Kwangtsi on the north bank of the Yangtze River advanced to Sungyangchueh at 5 p.m., September 7th. A large Chinese column retreated along the highway from Kwangtsi to Tsaochochen.

On the night of September 6th, about two divisions of Chinese troops attacked Tahopu and Kunchungpu in the rear of the Japanese positions from Howshanpu, but were repulsed by the Japanese garrisons the following morning. The enemy retreated to Kuchunkow, Howshanpu and Poshansuh, where they started constructing defence works. The enemy left 230 dead, 2 trench-mortars, 2 machine-guns of Czechoslovakian make, 1 automatic rifle and 46 rifles. The Japanese casualties were 10 killed and 34 injured.

The Japanese detachment which took Sungyangchueh on September 8th swung west and attacked Mangchangchai.

On September 9th, two divisions of Chinese troops attacked Sungyangchueh and Shihpu from both north and south, but were repulsed the following day with heavy losses. The Japanese suffered 3 killed and 54 injured. Part of the Japanese forces advanced to Chiehling on September 10th. The Chinese troops made counter-attacks on Kwangtsi repeatedly, but were repulsed on every occasion.

The Japanese forces engaged about nineteen divisions of Chinese troops under General Li Ping-hsien in attacking and reducing Hwangmei and Kwangtsi in addition to one heavy artillery company, two field artillery battalions and one mountain-gun battalion. The enemy left 15,500 dead

in addition to 1,200 who were taken prisoner. The Japanese booty included 6 field guns, 10 trench-mortars, 2 heavy machine-guns, 1 light machine-gun of Czechoslovakian make and 4 rapid-firers.

Part of the Japanese forces which massed near Kwangtsi started a drive on Tienkiachen Fortress on September 15th. Tienkiachen Fortress lies on the northern bank of the Yangtze River, about 40 kilometres south of Kwangtsi. At noon, September 15th, the Japanese troops advanced to the line between Limuchueh, 11 kilometres southwest of Kwangtsi and Jaohowan. After dislodging an enemy force, they reached Tiehshuhtun at 3 30 p.m. The following day, about 1,500 Chinese soldiers were dislodged from Sungshankow Hill. On September 17 Japanese units started an attack on Loto Hill. The enemy left over 800 dead.

On the evening of September 18th, the Japanese reached Shatzenao. After reducing the Chinese positions south of Shatzenao the following day, the Japanese reached the line between Yupingshan and Yangchengshan north of Tienkiachen on September 20th.

The rear of Tienkiachen Fortress was defended with barbed wire entanglements and installed with strong machine-gun emplacements. The Chinese garrison of the fortress was the 17th division.

On the evening of September 26th, the Japanese forces started a frontal attack on the northern major defence line of Tienkiachen, while Japanese military and naval air units made sustained attacks on the fortress in concert with the ground forces. Wavering before the fierce Japanese onslaughts, the enemy started a retreat on September 28th. Early in the morning of September 29th, the first line of the Japanese forces stormed the fortress and wiped out the Chinese troops, by cutting off their retreat. At 10 o'clock, the same morning, Tienkiachen Fortress was completely occupied.

Tienkiashan lies at a point 23 kilometres above Wusueh, dominating the Yangtze River. It is famous in Chinese military history. The occupation of Tienkiachen has further facilitated the Japanese drive on Hankow up the Yangtze River.

Investigation regarding the results of the occupation on Tienkiachen is not yet completed, but a tentative report shows the Japanese booty included 2 forts, which apparently were not provided with guns, 1 steam-launch, 3 searchlight units, 1 power station, 1 field-gun, 1,000 field-gun shells, 1 mountain-gun, 7 trench-mortars, 84 heavy machine-guns, 50 light machine-guns of Czechoslovakian make, 1,500 rifles, 710,000 rounds of ammunition, 1,000 anti-tank shells, 400 hand-grenades, 5,700 kilogrammes of iron-wire and 1,000 bales of rice, while the enemy left 400 dead. The Japanese casualties were about 1,000. The Chinese troops which participated in the engagements in the Tienkiachen sector consisted of the 9th, 32nd, 37th, 102nd, 121st, 171st and 174th divisions.

THE FRONT SOUTH OF THE YANGTZE

The Juichang and Yanghsin Sectors

The Ishimoto and the Hirata detachments from September 3rd to September 5th pressed back the enemy force to a considerable distance in

the area west of Juichang. The enemy left 680 dead, while the Japanese casualties were 25 killed and 65 injured. The Japanese spoils of war included 9 heavy machine-guns, 5 light machine-guns, 130 automatic rifles and 400 rifles.

On September 6th, the Japanese first line west of Juichang extended from Hungshanyen to Chienshanpo. At dawn, September 10th, the Japanese force successfully stormed the Chinese position at Hwangshannao Hill. Another Japanese detachment, which had been attacking Tafen-shan Hill since September 8th occupied the hill on September 10th.

The Japanese first line, which early in the morning of September 10th started a push from the line between Tatangyen and Tungshan, about 5 kilometres southwest of Juichang, reached Hsiennuchih the same evening.

A general offensive was launched by the Japanese forces the following dawn and the line connecting Maanshan, Paoerhtung, Yenkuashan, Chenkiawa and Pichufeng was reached at 5 p.m.

On the evening of September 13th, the line between Maanshan and Hsiawang was reached by one Japanese detachment, while the line between Laohuachung and Taiyangchai was secured by another unit. Meanwhile, Matowchen, an important fort on the south bank of the Yangtze River, was occupied by the Nagai detachment in cooperation with a naval landing party on September 14th.

On September 15th, the Japanese first line advanced to the line connecting Laowuko, Nanpingchui, Yenshang, Shamaoling, Hukialung and Yuncheling. The following day the enemy positions further west of Peishan Hill, a hill west of Hwangtukiao, Peihowshan Hill, Leishan Hill, Tungpingiao Hill, Mount Chuchu and Mount Talung were attacked. On September 17th, breaking through the Chinese left wing, the Japanese force reached the line extending north and south from Fengkiapu as well as Tsingung. On September 18th, the enemy positions near Hungkangwan was broken through and the line on its western side was reached by the Japanese troops.

The Teragaki, Fujitaka and Ohta detachments occupied the heights at Wukianao and Tanaoshan south of Meihwaan on September 18th and advanced to the line connecting Liangting (4 kilometres southwest of Hwangtukiao), Lingpailao, Changungshan and Sztzeshan on September 20th, from which they have since made a further drive.

The military and naval air forces in concert with the ground forces effectively bombed the enemy positions or machine-gunned the retreating enemy.

On September 20th, the Japanese first line advanced to the line connecting Liangting, Lingpailao, Changungshan, Sztzeshan and Lutang. Part of the Japanese force occupied Chuintang at 11 o'clock the same morning, after defeating about 1,500 Chinese soldiers armed with trench-mortars. Fuchukow, a fort on the south bank of the Yangtze, then became its immediate objective of attack.

On the evening of September 21st, the Japanese forces drove further west and reached the line connecting Weitaoshan, a hill south of Shih-tien, Chenkiashan, Tawashan, Sztzeshan and a point 5 kilometres west of Hungkangwan. The following evening, they reached the area east of

Mushukang.

The Japanese forces which drove on Fushukow attacked the enemy positions at Meiposhan on September 22nd, while part of them succeeded in dislodging the enemy from the heights at Potiehshan and Fuwangmuao. The Chinese positions southwest of Hsiaohuan were attacked from the north.

On September 23rd, Meiposhan was taken, while part of the Japanese forces reached Hwanghuaniao, 4 kilometres northwest of Mushukang. Fuchukow Fort on the south bank of the Yangtze River was completely occupied at 1 p.m., September 24th. The Japanese first line advanced to the line connecting Changshuhsia, Tienpan, Yulinshan, Hushou and Clouhwang. On September 26th, the vanguard of the Japanese forces attacked the enemy west of Hsiakiaopu.

The Hirata detachment, which pushed south of Yanghsin passed Shan-hsiacheng, 9 kilometres northeast of Paishih on September 30th, advanced to the line connecting Mingshuiwa, Hsieshihchueh and Paishih on the right bank of the Fu River shortly after 10 a.m., October 1st.

Part of the Japanese forces which reduced Fichukow pushed further west along the southern bank of the Yangtze River and occupied Panpishan opposite Tienkiachen Fort in cooperation with a naval landing party at 9 a.m., October 4th.

Those Japanese troops which had been pressing back the enemy to the Fu River from the Hsiafen-Hsiakiaopu highway and the Tapan-Shwangkang-chueh highway broke through the enemy line connecting Hsiakiaopu, Shangtaya, Shihshian, Tapan, Tachuanmang and Yintushan and kept up their drive on the Fu River.

The Siushui and Joki Sectors

The Japanese troops which drove southwest from Juichang, south of the Yangtze River, advanced to Hsiaohuan on September 24th. On September 27th, these troops confronted the Chinese force which had set up defence works along the line connecting Fuhsuehshan, Maanling, Likishan and Paishukai.

At dawn, September 30th, the Japanese forces started a general attack and advanced to the line between Tienkiachou and a hill south of Yuansan-chuen which lies east of Shangwan, by breaking through the enemy positions east of Maanshan.

At 11 p.m., October 3rd, the centre of the Japanese troops reached the hilly line, about 4 kilometres northwest of Joki, which was occupied at 2 a.m., October 5th. Joki lies on the Siushui River, being a strategically important town between Yungsiu and Wuning.

Aikow Sector

The Japanese force which took Tungkuling after hard fighting repulsed an enemy counter-attack on the 350-metre hill on the night of September 5th. This force on September 6th dislodged the Chinese troops from their positions near Kwanyinyen.

On September 8th, the Japanese troops started an attack on Sikuling Hill, and the same evening succeeded in taking the enemy positions on the hill-side. On the evening of September 9th, the Japanese took the line connecting Wukia, Shangtaowang and Sikushan. The left wing of the Japanese forces made a further advance with the result that the Japanese first line advanced to the line connecting Chihlungshan, Yuankiapon and Sikushan on the evening of September 11th.

At 9 a.m., September 12th, the Japanese succeeded in capturing Sikushan Hill after fierce fighting. The same evening, the Japanese first line reached the line connecting Chihlungshan, Pamaokiao, Hukia, Sikushan and Lichuang. The next day, the situation developed more favourably toward the Japanese troops, so that their first line advanced to the line connecting Chihlungshan, Hukia, the 251-metre hill, Taokiawan and Ouyangchuang.

The Japanese force which started an attack on the enemy at Shankiashan from the line extending north and south from Taokiawan on September 13th reached the line between Kweitsungze and Shankiashan by 10 a.m., the following day. This force advanced to the line between Hsiangchuanze and Lukiutung on September 15th.

The Japanese pincer movement against the Chinese troops, which has been offering stiff resistance at and round Aikow, taking advantage of the steep mountains surrounding that city, was steadily tightened. On October 3rd, the right wing of the Japanese forces dislodged the enemy from Hwangensze. On October 6th, Hwalungshan Hill, a key point of the enemy right wing fell before the fierce Japanese onslaught. At dawn, the next day, the Japanese troops broke through the enemy positions on Hwalungshan Hill south of Aikow and pushed southwest. The fall of Aikow was imminent, but the Chinese troops there were still offering stubborn resistance on October 7th.

THE NORTH CHINA FRONT

The Shansi Sector

The Japanese artillery garrison at Fenglingtu, the southwestern extremity of Shansi Province, on September 16th showered shells on Tungkwan and Shihuitzun Station across the Yellow River, while military air squadrons on September 18th bombed Tungkwan and its neighbourhood. Train service was suspended on the Luog-Hai Railway during the daytime, though the Chinese authorities apparently were planning to operate trains at night.

The Menghsien Sector

The Japanese force which was operating west of Menghsien occupied Potaochen, 10 kilometres northwest of Tiehhsieh, on September 15th. The following day, this force drove further westward. The Japanese artillery force also destroyed the Chinese positions near Hungchien, 7 kilometres north of Tiehhsieh and also the Chinese artillery positions on the opposite bank of the Yellow River, equipped with eight 10-centimetre guns.

The New Yellow River Sector

Those Japanese troops which were operating southwest of Kweite on the Lung-Hai Railway crossed the new Yellow River from Changyingtsi northwest of Taikang on September 14th and occupied the delta, 6 kilometres east of Lutan. About 2,000 Chinese soldiers set up positions at Lutan and the area southeast of it, but the Japanese dislodged them.

The new Yellow River, which was created when the southern dike of the river was breached by the Chinese forces in a desperate attempt to check the Japanese advance on Chengchow, an important railway juncture, was rising.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MILITARY AIR FORCE

The military air force is active on all fronts in cooperation with the ground forces, bombing and machine-gunning the Chinese military works and troop concentrations. It is also giving effective service in reconnoitring the enemy positions and establishing communications between the Japanese forces.

At 4:30 p.m., September 16th, military air squadrons made a surprise raid on Hankow and attacked the airfield there. Twelve out of thirteen Chinese aeroplanes on the ground were bombed and destroyed. The Japanese raiders were greeted with heavy fire by the Chinese anti-aircraft batteries, but all of them returned to their base safely, though one of them was hit by fragments of an anti-aircraft shell.

THE SITUATION IN CHINA

II

— FORCES OF THE IMPERIAL NAVY IN ACTION —

PUBLICITY BUREAU, NAVY DEPARTMENT

The combined drive on Hankow by Japanese land, sea and air forces is progressing steadily. Naval forces are pushing up the Yangtze River, removing booms and sweeping mines in the face of enemy fire. Naval landing parties are attacking and capturing Chinese forts on either bank of the river at such points as Wusueh, Siangshan and Tienkiachen. The Naval Air Force is flying over various points throughout China every day, bombing military works and establishments.

On September 14th, a Naval landing party, which landed at an undisclosed place on the bank of the Yangtze following the fall of Kuikiang, occupied Matowchen Fort on the southern bank of the river opposite Wusueh.

The naval force made a further drive up the Yangtze River in cooperation with air and ground forces, by removing booms and sweeping mine-fields.

On September 15th, the landing party that occupied Matowchen Fort pursued the enemy in a northwestern direction.

Another party which landed at a point below Wusueh early on the morning of September 16th started a drive on Wusueh on the following day. They forged their way through enemy positions on the northern bank of the river in concert with naval and naval air forces, and succeeded in taking the fortress by noon. After occupying Wusueh, the landing party immediately started a clean-up campaign against the remnants of Chinese troops remaining in the vicinity, thereby extending the area under Japanese occupation.

On September 29th, this same group succeeded in reducing Siangshan Fort, the outpost of Tienkiachen Fort, covered by fire from warships and the air force. The landing party had been engaged in severe fighting for several days with Chinese troops that were ten times as large in numerical strength and which had set up positions in the mountains north and west of Wusueh. Subsequently, this party started a drive on Tienkiachen Fort in concert with military units. On September 30th, remnants of Chinese troops between Tienkiachen and Siangshan were routed. On the same day, the vanguard of the naval force proceeded up the Yangtze, silencing enemy artillery fire on either bank of the river.

Still further advance up the Yangtze was made on October 3rd.

On October 4th, a naval landing party occupied Panpishan Fort on the southern bank of the Yangtze opposite Tienkiachen Fort. This fort together with the one at Tienkiachen dominates the Yangtze River between

Kiukiang and Hwangshihkang. The landing party fought in close conjunction with military forces, warships and the Naval Air Force.

The Japanese Naval Air Force in China

Activities of the Japanese Naval Air Force from September 12th to October 3rd are outlined below.

September 12th The Naval Air Force was active in Central China in concert with the military and naval forces. Air units commanded by Lieutenant Soyeda raided Chengchow, junction of the Peking-Hankow and the Lung-Hai Railways and bombed goods waggons and godowns in the station compounds, which went up in flames. The tracks were severed at several points.

Naval air units led by Lieutenant Katsumi and Sub-Lieutenant Ogawa in cooperation with the ground forces attacked the Chinese positions and troop concentrations southwest of Juichang and south of the Yangtze River.

Lieutenant Yanaka, leading a naval air squadron, visited Honan Province and attacked the Chinese troop concentrations southwest of Shangcheng. Several Chinese positions were also attacked. The planes that flew along the Yangtze River discovered the Chinese artillery positions on both banks of the river, which they bombed heavily.

Another naval squadron led by Lieutenant Higai raided Nancheng in eastern Kiangsi Province and effectively bombed the airfield there.

September 13th In Central China, naval air units assisted the ground forces in attacking the Chinese troop concentrations and artillery positions west of Kwangsi and northwest of Wusueh on the northern bank of the Yangtze River.

Other naval planes commanded by Lieutenant-Commander Sugaku raided Loshan and Sunuehpu in Honan Province and bombed the Chinese military works and troop concentrations so effectively that the eastward movement of the Chinese troops was checked.

In South China, Liuchow in central Kwangsi Province was raided by naval air units under Lieutenant Iguchi. Four Chinese fighting planes were flying above the airfield there. In the ensuing air combat, the Japanese airmen succeeded in shooting down three of them and putting the remaining one to flight. Over a dozen large-sized and six small-sized planes on the ground were bombed and destroyed together with several hangars. No anti-aircraft battery fired on the Japanese planes.

September 14th The Naval Air Force limited its operations to the Yangtze valley where it cooperated with the military forces. Chinese troop concentrations north of Wusueh were bombed.

Naval air units led by Lieutenants Shibata and Katsumi raided the Chinese first line north and west of Kwangsi and effectively bombed the Chinese positions.

September 15th In cooperation with the military forces and a naval landing party, several naval air units attacked the Chinese positions on either bank of the Yangtze. A squadron led by Lieutenant Nonaka bombed the Chinese troop concentrations at Tienkuachen on the northern

bank of the Yangtze with the result that fires started at several points in the town. The Japanese planes were greeted with fierce fire from the Chinese anti-aircraft batteries, but they all returned to their base safely.

Another squadron commanded by Lieutenant Soyeda raided Kishui on the northern bank of the Yangtze River and bombed the Chinese military works and troop concentrations there with the result that fires started at several points in the town.

Repeated attacks were made by naval planes on the Chinese positions on Mount Maan (Saddle Mountain), northwest of Wusueh and the area west of Wusueh.

The enemy line west of Juichang was attacked by naval air units under Lieutenants Higas, Mori and Nakamura. Chinese anti-aircraft fire was extremely severe, but all the Japanese planes returned to their base safely.

September 16th In Central China, several naval air squadrons cooperated with the naval force pushing up the Yangtze and the military forces driving on Hankow along the northern and southern banks of the river.

A unit led by Sub-Lieutenant Hirahara, in cooperation with the ground forces near Wusueh and Tienkiachen, bombed Chinese military works and troop concentrations, inflicting heavy damage.

Other naval squadrons commanded by Lieutenant-Commander Yasunobu and Lieutenant Mori made extensive flights over the wavering Chinese troops in the mountainous zone between Juichang and Yanghsun south of the Yangtze.

Several naval air units also raided Mushihkang, Hwangtukiao, Tafenglin, Shafuling and other places near Yanghsun and bombed the Chinese military works and troop concentrations there.

In South China, naval air squadrons, taking advantage of the clear weather after a long spell of rain, raided Laitung, Wongshek and Yuantan, destroyed the railway tracks at several points and severely damaged steel bridges, thus interrupting the train service.

September 17th Naval air units which visited the Yangtze valley devoted the whole day to attacks on Chinese military positions and troop concentrations on either bank of the river in cooperation with the naval force pushing upstream and the ground forces driving westward along both banks.

A naval air squadron which visited South China raided Wuchow and effectively bombed the military works in the eastern part of the town.

Other naval planes attacked the airfield at Bocca Tigris and also the Canton-Hankow Railway.

September 18th Crack units of the Naval Air Force which visited South China bombed the airfield at Luichow, defying the foul weather conditions. One unit led by Lieutenant Iguchi, despite heavy fire from the Chinese anti-aircraft batteries, bombed the hangars and other buildings in the airfield, with the result that fires were started at four points. Several large and small planes on the ground were bombed and destroyed. Another unit commanded by Lieutenant Mihara destroyed five Chinese planes on the ground together with several buildings. All the Japanese planes returned to their base in safety. Luichow was first visited by Japanese naval planes on September 13th. This raid was a second one.

The two raids resulted in the destruction of all the technical installations in the local airfield.

September 19th Those naval planes which visited South China bombed the Canton-Hankow Railway and military objectives in Wuchow. Yuantan and Yinchanyao on the railway were bombed twice, while the bullet factory at Wuchow was attacked.

September 21st With the improvement of the weather, the Chinese positions and troop concentrations, both north and south of the Yangtze River were bombed by several naval air squadrons.

One unit visited Yamhsien in southwestern Kwangsi Province and effectively bombed the military barracks and other military establishments. The Chinese anti-aircraft batteries fired on the Japanese raiders, who, however, all succeeded in returning to their base safely.

September 22nd In Central China, bad weather conditions prevented a large naval force from being active, but small groups of naval planes from time to time took to the air and effectively bombed the Chinese first lines on both banks of the Yangtze.

In South China, Wumung, Nannung and Yamhsien were raided, where barracks and other military works were bombed and destroyed. The Canton-Hankow Railway was also attacked and the steel bridges and tracks near Pakonghow and Yuantan were bombed. The train service on the southern section of the Canton-Hankow Railway was suspended. A naval air squadron led by Lieutenant Kame bombed and sunk a Chinese gunboat of the Chu Yew class at Lanchihchen, 3 miles above Hwangshihkang.

September 23rd Naval air squadrons visiting the Yangtze valley despite poor weather bombed the Chinese positions, troop concentrations and caravans of motor-lorries in cooperation with the ground forces.

Those naval air units which raided South China were unable to penetrate far inland owing to heavy cloud banks, but bombed the military works at Yamhsien and the steel bridge at Yuantan.

September 24th Taking advantage of an improvement of the weather, a naval air unit led by Lieutenant Soyeda raided Tsungfow, southwest of Macheng in Hupeh Province, and bombed the military establishments there.

Other units commanded by Lieutenants Shibata and Katsumi raided Tsingvang in Anhwei Province. Still other groups commanded by Lieutenants Fukushima, Kame, Watanabe and Inouye bombed the Chinese positions and troop concentrations on both banks of the Yangtze in cooperation with the ground forces.

September 25th Sustained attacks were made by several naval air units on the Chinese artillery positions, military works in Central China and goods trains on the Peking-Hankow Railway.

Chinese troop concentrations, artillery positions and caravans of motor-lorries were bombed at Kichun and its neighbourhood. Tienkiachen Fort was also attacked, while Chinese motor boats laying mines near Tienkiachen were bombed and sunk together with forty junks carrying munitions. The area south of the Yangtze was also raided, and Chinese troop concentrations between Yanghsin and Tsungshan were attacked in order to check their eastward movement.

In South China, Kweiyang, capital of Kweichow Province, was visited.

The local airfield was bombed together with various military establishments.

September 26th In South China, the airfields at Liuchow and Kweilin in Kwangsi Province were attacked. Several aeroplanes on the ground and five hangars were bombed and destroyed. All the Japanese planes returned to their base safely.

In the area north of the Yangtze, sustained attacks were made on Tienkiachen Fort, where the Chinese troops were offering stiff resistance to the Japanese onslaughts. Chinese troop concentrations, artillery positions and motor-lorries loaded to capacity with munitions were effectively bombed in the area between Tienkiachen, Kishui and Tsaochochen.

South of the Yangtze, Chinese forts including Panpushan opposite Tienkiachen were bombed together with munition dumps.

Hwayuan Station on the southern section of the Peking-Hankow Railway and Siennung Station on the northern section of the Canton-Hankow Railway were attacked. Station buildings, railway tracks and goods trains were effectively bombed.

September 27th Kweilin, Liuchow and Wuming in Kwangsi Province were raided, where the airfields were bombed. Various technical installations, including runways, hangars and godowns were destroyed.

September 28th Naval air squadrons led by Lieutenant Mihara raided Yunnanfu, capital of Yunnan Province. The Japanese airmen were challenged by over a dozen Chinese planes, six of which, however, were brought down in the ensuing air combat. Fourteen Chinese planes on the ground were also bombed and destroyed. Eight of them went up in flames, together with over a dozen buildings in the airfield.

The military cadets' school and arsenal in Yunnanfu were bombed and burned. The Chinese military authorities had been planning to reorganize their air force with Yunnanfu as base, but their plan was seriously upset by the effective Japanese raid.

A Japanese naval plane piloted by Warrant Officer Ono, succeeded in shooting down one Chinese plane, but was disabled when several bullets hit it. The crew, waving their hands in farewell, committed heroic suicide by plunging the plane into the Chinese anti-aircraft batteries on the side of a hill south of the airfield.

All establishments at the major stations on the southern section of the Peking-Hankow Railway had already been destroyed by repeated Japanese bombings. Other establishments which had remained intact were bombed and destroyed with the result that the train service south of Sinyang was interrupted. Hwanyuan and Kwangshui Stations and surrounding railway establishments were bombed, together with freight trains. The station at Sinyang was bombed and burned.

Paiyun, Tienho and Tsungfa in Kwangtung Province were raided and the airfields were effectively bombed. Runways and hangars were destroyed.

Several naval air squadrons in concert with the naval force and ground forces repeatedly attacked the Chinese positions and troop concentrations along the Yangtze River. Especially heavy bombing was made on the Chinese artillery positions near Tienkiachen.

September 30th Several naval air units, in cooperation with the naval landing party, attacked the Chinese positions between Tienkiachen and Siangshan. The Chinese troops retreating from Tienkiachen to Kichun were bombed and machine-gunned.

October 3rd The activity of the Naval Air Force was hampered by the foul weather which prevailed over many parts of China, but several units railed the Canton-Kowloon and the Canton-Hankow Railways, bombing Lilang Station on the former and the steel bridge near Yinchanyao on the latter.

POPULATION OF JAPAN IN 1937

AS ANNOUNCED BY THE
BUREAU OF STATISTICS, PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT

THE exact numbers of births, deaths, marriages, divorces and still-births among Japanese in Japan Proper in 1937 have been ascertained.

The number of births was 2,180,734 and the rate of births to the total population was 30.61 per thousand. The number of births in 1937 increased by 78,765 over the number for the preceding year; the birth-rate was higher by .69 per thousand.

The average birth-rate in Japan has been 33 or 34 per thousand. In 1920, it reached its highest proportion, 36.19, and thereafter showed a tendency to decline, the figures for 1934 and 1936 being 29.97 and 29.92, respectively. The increase in 1937 may indicate the beginning of a new, upward trend. For purposes of comparison, the birth-rate of other countries may be of interest: Soviet Russia, 39.2; Germany 19.0; Italy 22.4, U.S.A. 17.1; England 15.3; and France 15.0.

In 1937, the number of deaths in Japan Proper was 1,207,899, the death-rate being 16.95 per thousand. As compared with the previous year, the number of deaths decreased by 22,379, while the death-rate declined by .56 per thousand. The death-rate in recent years has tended to become lower. The lowest was recorded in 1935, 16.78 per thousand. The figure for 1937 was next to this. Death rates in leading countries are as follows: Soviet Russia 20.4; Italy 13.7; Germany 11.8; France 15.3; England 12.3; and U.S.A. 11.0.

Owing to the increase of births over deaths, the population of Japan increased by 972,833 in 1937. This represents the largest natural increase in recent history except those of 1918 and 1921. The rate of increase in 1937 was 13.65 per thousand, representing an ordinary increase. The population increased by 101,144 in comparison with the increase recorded in 1936; the rate of increase advanced by 1.2 per thousand over the previous rate. The rates of natural increase in population for other countries are as follows: Soviet Russia 18.8; Germany 7.2; England 3.0; Italy 8.7, and U.S.A. 6.1. Recently, the population of France has been decreasing; the rate of decrease in 1936 was .3 per thousand.

The total number of marriages in Japan Proper in 1937 was 674,500. The marriage-rate was 9.47 per thousand. Hitherto, the annual average has been 7 or 8 out of every thousand persons, so the rate for last year was remarkably high. There were 125,384 more marriages in 1937 than in 1936 and the marriage-rate was higher by 1.65. Legal notifications of marriage increased suddenly in August and September; after October they resumed their ordinary course. Perhaps what had existed merely as marriages of consent were legally registered by the stimulus of the China Affair.

In 1937, 46,500 divorces took place, the divorce-rate being .65 per thousand. Although the number of divorces increased by 333 over the previous year, the divorce-rate decreased by .01.

There were a total of 111,485 still-births. The rate was 1.56 per thousand. As compared with the previous year, still-births increased by 429; the rate decreased by .02. The rate of still-births in other countries is as follows: Italy .8; France and U.S.A. .6; Germany and England .5. Thus Japan has the highest rate.

THE FIGURES FOR 1937

	Actual number		Per thousand persons	
	In 1937	Comparison with the previous year	In 1937	Comparison with the previous year
(Δ indicates decrease)				
Births	2,180,734	78,765	30.61	0.69
Deaths	1,107,899	Δ 12,579	16.95	Δ 0.56
Natural increase	972,835	101,144	13.65	1.24
Marriages ..	674,500	125,384	9.47	1.65
Divorces ..	46,500	333	0.65	Δ 0.01
Still-births ..	111,485	429	1.56	Δ 0.02

TENDENCIES IN BIRTHS, DEATHS, NATURAL INCREASE AND MARRIAGES IN THE LAST TEN YEARS

(Actual numbers)

	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Marriages
1928 ..	2,135,852	1,236,711	899,141	499,555
1929 ..	2,077,026	1,261,228	815,798	497,410
1930 ..	2,085,101	1,170,867	914,234	506,674
1931 ..	2,102,784	1,240,891	861,893	496,574
1932 ..	2,182,742	1,175,344	1,007,398	515,270
1933 ..	2,121,253	1,193,987	927,266	486,058
1934 ..	2,043,783	1,234,684	809,099	512,654
1935 ..	2,190,704	1,161,936	1,028,768	556,730
1936 ..	2,101,969	1,230,278	871,691	549,116
1937 ..	2,180,734	1,107,899	972,835	674,500

THE SAME (per thousand persons)

	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Marriages
1928	34.38	19.91	14.47	8.04
1929	33.00	20.04	12.96	7.90
1930	32.33	18.17	14.19	7.86
1931	32.17	18.98	13.19	7.60
1932	32.92	17.73	15.20	7.77
1933	31.51	17.76	13.79	7.23
1934	29.97	18.11	11.86	7.52
1935	31.63	16.78	14.85	8.04
1936	29.92	17.31	12.61	7.82
1937	30.61	16.95	13.65	9.47

RATES OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND NATURAL INCREASE IN JAPAN
COMPARED WITH THOSE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES

	Birth-rate (per 1,000 persons)	Death-rate (per 1,000 persons)	Rate of natural increase (per 1,000 persons)
(Δ indicates decrease)			
Japan Proper (1937).....	30.9	17.0	13.7
Germany (1936)	19.0	11.8	7.2
Italy (1936)	22.4	13.7	8.7
U. S. A. (1934)	17.1	11.0	6.1
England (1936).....	15.3	12.3	3.0
France (1936).....	15.0	15.3	Δ 0.3
Soviet Russia (1930).....	39.2	20.4	18.8

LAWS AND ORDINANCES RECENTLY PROMULGATED

PRIME MINISTER'S CABINET

Organization of Commission on Electric Communications

(Imperial Ordinance No. 631 of September 10, 1938)

THIS Commission has been created with the object of conducting investigations and deliberations on the more important matters concerning systematic development in East Asia of electric communications. The Committee is under the supervision of the Prime Minister, who is assisted by the Minister of Communications as vice-chairman. There are thirty members of the Commission and, where necessary, the chairman may appoint additional members pro tem.

Ordinance Concerning Operation of the Gold Production Promotion Company Law

(Imperial Ordinance No. 640 of September 10, 1938)

The present Ordinance chiefly concerns about determining the competent Minister of State to take charge of the operation of the Gold Production Promotion Company Law. A detailed account of the Government's gold production policy is given in the July (No. 13) number of TOKYO GAZETTE.

Creation within the Department of Commerce and Industry of a Bureau in Charge of Measures dealing with Changes of Occupation and Employment

(Imperial Ordinance No. 631 of September 22, 1938)

Revision of the Regulations Relating to Temporary Officials and Staffs in the Department of Commerce and Industry

(Imperial Ordinance No. 632 of September 22, 1938)

Revision of the Ordinance Concerning Rank and Salary of Civil Officials

(Imperial Ordinance No. 653 of September 22, 1938)

In view of the fact that, as a result of the intensive enforcement of adjustment in the supply and demand of commodities, a considerable proportion of small and medium-sized tradespeople and industrialists are compelled to lose or suspend their business, a special Bureau has been created in the Department of Commerce and Industry for the purpose of investigating and applying measures to cope with the situation. This Bureau is in charge of matters relating to continuation or change of occupation and employment. In addition to the regular officials numbering fourteen, not including the Chief of the Bureau, a certain number of advisers are appointed from among senior officials of the various Departments concerned and men of technical knowledge and experience. Besides, a portion of the temporary officials and staff in the Department of Commerce and Industry is transferred to the new Bureau. At the same time, a revision has been made in the Ordinance concerning rank and salary of civil officials.

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